

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Tenth Essex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Tenth Essex Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 1.9% (2,259) reside in the Tenth Essex Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (429) of Tenth Essex Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 66.0% of admissions from the Tenth Essex Representative District were male and 34.0% were female.
- Over 58.5% of admissions were between the ages of 21-39.
- 68.6% of admissions were white non-Latino, 11.6% were black non-Latino, 14.1% were Latino, 1.7% were Asian, and 4.0% were other racial categories.
- 66.1% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 12.8% were married, and 13.6% reported not to be married now.
- 38.0% of admissions had less than high school education, 45.6% completed high school, and 16.3% had more than high school education.
- 26.7% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 14.7% of those admitted were homeless.
- 13.9% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

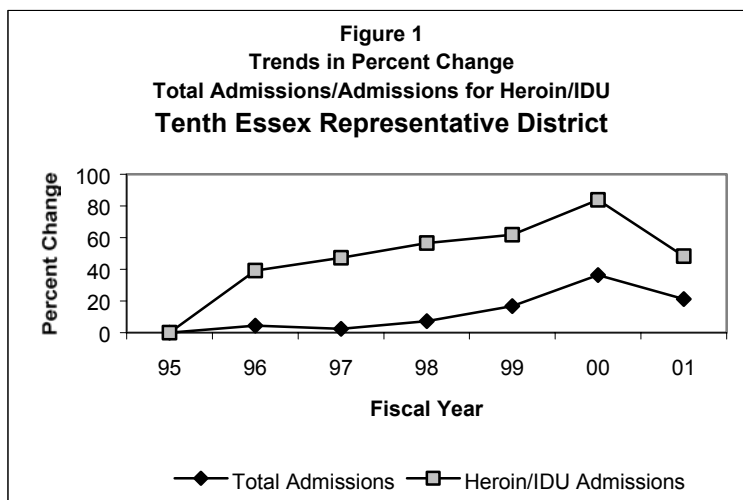
- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Tenth Essex Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Tenth Essex Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	1,864	1,350	487	791	665	638	354
FY '96	1,945	1,372	554	792	673	836	545
FY '97	1,910	1,374	527	659	481	857	604
FY '98	1,998	1,357	522	605	358	937	616
FY '99	2,177	1,553	632	677	367	939	667
FY '00	2,542	1,811	743	725	364	1,047	777
FY '01	2,259	1,557	626	542	237	879	591

- Since FY 1995, residents of Tenth Essex Representative District reported an increase in heroin and marijuana use, with a notable peak in FY 2000. Heroin use increased by 37% and marijuana use by 53%.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting alcohol use increased by 15%, while cocaine and crack use decreased by 31% and 64%, respectively.

Heroin and Injection Drug Use:

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the Tenth Essex Representative District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV¹.



- Total treatment admission for all modalities rose 21% between FY 1995 and FY 2001. During the same period, admissions for heroin and injection drug use treatment increased by 48%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Tenth Essex Representative District.

	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	40.1%	34.6%	10.0%	5.4%	3.1%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While crack as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was level with the State average, marijuana and cocaine as a primary drug was higher, and, alcohol and heroin was lower within your District.

¹ The Schneider Institute for Health Policy, Brandeis University, 2000